

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 ARA-10 EA-10
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USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07
OMB-01 FEA-01 /124 R

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L/AF:MMATHESON
E:EJOHNSTON

-----005428 080052Z /62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214211

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, ESTC, RH, ENRG

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS: INDIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON OIL SANCTIONS

REF: USUN 2878

1. WE ARE URGENTLY EXAMINING LEGAL AND POLICY QUESTIONS
POSED BY INDIAN SC RESOLUTION (REFTEL) AND HOPE TO BE IN
POSITION TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH BRITISH AND OTHERS
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SHORTLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE
COULD HAVE MISSION'S READING ON TIMING OF CONSIDERATION
OF INDIAN RESOLUTION. WILL RESOLUTION BE CONSIDERED
IN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AS WELL, AND IF SO, WHEN?

2. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH, USUN MIGHT
NOTE THAT INDIAN RESOLUTION WILL BE SURE TO GAIN SUPPORT

FROM AFRICANS, WHOSE ONLY CRITICISM WOULD BE THAT
RESOLUTION IS TOO WEAK. IN TACTICAL TERMS, THIS COULD
POSE DEFINITE PROBLEMS FOR UK/US RHODESIA INITIATIVE
IF UK AND US WERE SEEN TO BE OPPOSING A STEP WHICH
AFRICANS SAW AS ONE OF FEW EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST
SMITH REGIME. WERE THIS TO HAPPEN, CAREFULLY CULTIVATED
SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE BUILT UP AMONG FRONT-LINE STATES

AND OTHER KEY PARTIES SUCH AS NIGERIA WOULD BE
JEOPARDIZED, WITH OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH
RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA INITIATIVES. WE ASSUME THERE IS
NO CHANCE THAT INDIANS COULD BE PERSUADED TO WITHDRAW
THEIR RESOLUTION, BUT THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO HOLD
OFF ON PRESSING FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF
THEIR RESOLUTION UNTIL STATUS OF UK/US RHODESIA
INITIATIVE BECOMES CLEARER. WERE INDIANS TO GO ALONG
WITH THIS PROCEDURE, WE WOULD PERHAPS GAIN A MONTH OR
SO DURING WHICH TIME WE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO
DEVELOP PLAN FOR FURTHER ACTION ON RHODESIA. GROWING
PRESSURE FOR ACTION ON OIL ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS, IN
DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, NEED FOR PRESSING AHEAD WITH OUR
CORE GROUP INITIATIVE. THESE PRESSURES ALSO RAISE
POSSIBILITY THAT INDIAN RESOLUTION MIGHT BE MADE
STRONGER THROUGH THE ADDITION OF ELEMENTS WHICH
WOULD POSE EVEN GREATER PROBLEMS FOR US. WE WOULD
WELCOME USUN'S COMMENTS ON THIS POINT.
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3. DURING AUGUST 12 CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON, FCO
OFFICIAL GRAHAM STATED THAT BP HAD ALREADY MADE
APPROACH TO ITS SOUTH AFRICAN SUBSIDIARY TO STOP
LATTER COMPANY'S SHIPMENTS OF OIL TO RHODESIA AND
THAT SHELL PLANNED SIMILAR ACTION WITH ITS SOUTH
AFRICAN SUBSIDIARY. EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO
CHECK WITH FCO TO DETERMINE STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN UK AUTHORITIES AND BP/SHELL AS WELL AS FCO'S
EVALUATION OF LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPANIES'
EFFORTS.

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